GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:9
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
MEDICINAL PLANTS IN ORISSA
ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have identified the medicinal plants in hills and forests of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location- wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to preserve the existing medicinal plants and also to increase the growth of medicinal plants in that state;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a)&(b) The State Forest Department, Government of Orissa are fully aware of the existence of medicinal plants in hills and forests of Orissa. The area identified include Gandhamardan, Mahendragiri and Simlipal. About 100 species of medicinal plants have been known to be present in these areas.

(c)&(d) The field staff of the concerned Forest Divisions in the State have been instructed to provide proper preservation and growth of medicinal plants in these areas. In order to preserve these species along with the fauna, Similipal area has been declared as Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary and Similipal National Park under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Flora and fauna gets protection under this act and no material can be removed from this area. Under the Biosphere Reserve Programme a nursery has been established at Ramtirtha near Jashipur in Mayurbhanj District in 1988-89 and 43 species of medicinal plants available in Similipal area are being raised for purely research purpose. As regards the propagation of medicinal plants, 50 ha. of medicinal plants have been raised in three years during 1995-98 at Bharatpur Reserve Forest by State Silviculturist under the State Plan SchemeA sum of Rs.23,84,212/- has been spent for ex-situ and in-situ conservation of medicinal plants.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) including Medicinal Plants, financial assistance has been provided to Orissa. A project with an outlay of Rs.492.00 lakhs was sanctioned in 1997-98 for IX plan for developing an area of 6000 ha. in 22 districts for raising NTFP including medicinal plants.

(e) Does not arise